

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 SOE-02 AF-10
ARA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-02
DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 /179 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:GEISENSTADT:CF
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED
-----040590 070624Z /12

P 062230Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 6 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. BOSTON GLOBE'S WILLIAM BEECHER REPORTS THAT ADMINISTRA-
TION IS CONSIDERING COMPROMISE PLAN FOR CTB, TO WIN OVER
DOMESTIC CRITICS AND SO'-ET NEGOTIATORS. ACCORDING TO
BEECHER, NEW PLAN INCLUDES A 3-YEAR BAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS
TESTING, WITH EXCEPTION FOR LABORATORY NUCLEAR DEVICES
HAVING EXPLOSIVE FORCE NO GREATER THAN A FEW HUNDRED
POUNDS. ALSO INCLUDED IN COMPROMISE WOULD BE A PUBLIC

DECLARATION OF INTENT TO RESUME UNDERGROUND TESTING IF PERMANENT TREATY HAS NOT BEEN AGREED TO BY THE END OF THREE YEARS. BEECHER SAYS THAT STRESS ON RESUMPTION OF TESTING IN THREE YEARS NOT ONLY IS AIMED AT PRESSURING SOVIETS TO AGREE TO TERMS OF PERMANENT TREATY, BUT TO REASSURE DOMESTIC CRITICS THAT U.S. WOULD INITIATE MAJOR NEW TESTS IF NEGOTIATIONS PROVE INCONCLUSIVE. AIM OF CONCLUDING TREATY IS TO PERSUADE STATES SUCH AS INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA TO FOREGO THEIR TESTING BECAUSE THE BIGGEST POWERS HAD AGREED TO DO SO. "BUT BY PERMITTING A LOOPHOLE, EVEN A SMALL ONE FOR TINY TESTS, OFFICIALS CONCEDE, MIGHT

UNDERMINE THE APPEAL TO NONNUCLEAR STATES." TEXT ALSO STATES THAT SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO SEISMOGRAPHIC MONITORING WITHIN THEIR BORDERS AND "IN PRINCIPLE TO ON-SITE INSPECTION BY U.S. OFFICIALS IN EVENT OF SUSPICIOUS TREMORS."

2. ACCORDING TO WILLIAM BEECHER OF BOSTON GLOBE, SOURCES IN ADMINISTRATION SAY TENTATIVE PLAN IS BEING WORKED OUT WHICH COULD MAKE U.S. ICBM'S LESS VULNERABLE TO SOVIET SURPRISE ATTACK AND MAKE SENATE RATIFICATION OF SALT TWO MORE LIKELY. UNDER PROPOSAL U.S. WOULD URGE SOVIETS TO AGREE TO U.S. CONSTRUCTION OF ALTERNATE MISSILE SILOS IN WHICH EXISTING ICBM'S WOULD BE MOVED AT RANDOM, SO THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DETECT WHICH SILOS CONTAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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MISSILES. SOURCES CONTEND THAT WITHOUT SUCH AGREEMENT SENATE MAY REJECT SALT TWO, THUS LEADING TO A "WIDER ARRAY OF U.S. STRATEGIC MOVES." BEECHER STATES THAT AN IDEA TO USE PRESENT MINUTEMAN SILOS FOR THIS "SHELL-GAME" APPROACH IS ALSO FEASIBLE WITH ONLY MINOR MODIFICATIONS. UNDER NEW APPROACH, CONCRETE-LINED SILO HOLES WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED TWO TO FIVE MILES FROM EXISTING MINUTEMAN SILOS, WITH SPACING DESIGNED SO NO SINGLE WARHEAD COULD DESTROY MORE THAN ONE SILO. IF SOVIETS DID NOT KNOW WHICH SILOS CONTAINED MISSILES, THEY WOULD HAVE TO DESTROY ALL SILOS, AND WOULD THEREFORE USE UP AVAILABLE WARHEADS.

3. DREW MIDDLETON OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS THAT U.S. AND WEST EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS AND MILITARY PLANNERS ARE SAYING SOVIET MOVEMENT TO ERITREA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET AIRPOWER THERE WOULD CREATE A DIRECT THREAT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND TO TANKER TRAFFIC PASSING THROUGH THE PERSIAN GULF. SOURCES SAID THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA ARE MORE THREATENING TO THE WEST THAN ACTIVITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. POLITICAL AND EUROPEAN LEADERS ARE REPORTED TO BE CONCERNED OVER WHAT THE US WILL DO ABOUT THE APPROACH OF SOVIET

POWER IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THE HORN OF AFRICA IS WITHIN NATO'S THEATER OF OPERATION. THEORY AMONG NATO ANALYSTS IS THAT SOVIET UNION IS ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH MILITARY BASES WHICH WOULD THREATEN THE TWO LARGEST OIL PRODUCING STATES; SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, AND OIL ROUTES OUT OF THE PERSIAN GULF.

4. JOHN GOSHKO OF WASHINGTON POST SAID THAT IN A POLICY SHIFT AIMED AT "IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND AVOIDING PROBLEMS WITH CHINA", THE U.S. APPROVED THE SALE OF UP TO 60 ISRAELI KFIR JETS TO TAIWAN. THIS ACTION REVERSES A PROHIBITION BY FORD ADMINISTRATION ON THE SALE. BY LIFTING THE PROHIBITION, ADMINISTRATION APPEARS TO BE

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TRYING TO EASE PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE FAR EAST. SALE OF PLANES TO TAIWAN WOULD HELP U.S. MEET ITS COMMITMENT TO AID TAIWAN IN DEFENDING ITSELF. INTERPOSING ISRAEL AS DIRECT SUPPLIER OF ARMS TO TAIWAN, WOULD ALSO HELP THE UNITED STATES AVOID POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN ATTEMPTING TO MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA. ACCORDING TO GOSHKO, THE SALE ALSO HELPS TO EASE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL.

5. WASHINGTON STAR PUBLISHED A TIME-LIFE NEWS SERVICE REPORT WHICH STATED THAT SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ROBERT BYRD, ON HIS EUROPEAN TOUR, REASSURED WESTERN ALLIES THAT THEY "WILL NOT BE LEFT ON THE SIDELINES IN THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY NOW BEING NEGOTIATED." BYRD SAID THAT CARTER HAD SENT HIM TO EUROPE TO URGE ALLIES TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO COUNTER BUILDUP OF WARSAW PACT FORCES.

6. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR'S JUNE GOODWIN SAID THAT IF THE U.S. AND SOUTH AFRICA REACH AGREEMENT GUARANTEEING SOUTH AFRICA A SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM IN RETURN FOR A PROMISE BY SOUTH AFRICA NOT TO EXPLODE A NUCLEAR BOMB, THE U.S. MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BREAK ITS ALIGNMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE GOVERNMENT IN THE EVENT OF A RACE WAR. GOODWIN REPORTS THAT SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT VIEWS THE BOMB AS A BARGAINING CHIP WITH THE WEST. THE EXPLOSION OF THE BOMB CONCERNS THE WEST AS IT COULD ALTER AND SPEED UP THE RACIAL CONFRONTATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. A SITUATION LIKE THIS COULD BE "EXPLOITED BY THE SOVIETS TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE WEST." THEREFORE, THE WEST WOULD LIKE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE THAT A BOMB WILL NOT BE EXPLODED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS SUMMARIES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE170744
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GEISENSTADT:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780278-1021
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780789/aaaacwxm.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 437be779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2096629
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 6 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PARM, SOPN, US, UR
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/437be779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014